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Man charged in roommate's murder

By Susan Buck
staff writer

It all took just a matter of minutes. In the heat of anger Wednesday, Farmington Hills police say, a distraught Raymond Joseph Florian, 27, went to the Meljers Thrifty Acres store in Novi, bought a rifle and within an hour shot to death his new roommate, 40-year-old Daniel Raymond Magon.

Florian was arraigned on a charge of first-degree murder July 4 in the Farmington Hills police station before Magistrate James Brady of the 47th District Court in Farmington.

Florian faces a preliminary exam at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 12, in 47th District Court. Conviction carries life imprisonment.

In a matter of hours, Florian, a former Ma-

rine, assumed the role of both victim and suspect in two separate crime cases, police said.

At 9 a.m., Florian sat in Sgt. Charles Nebus' office, upset because he thought his friend and roommate had somehow bilked him out of \$25,000.

"Police term that crime 'larceny by conversion,'" Florian said.

MAGON REPORTEDLY asked Florian for \$10,000 on May 10 for an attorney fee. Magon told Florian that his company was being bought for \$14.6 million and that he would repay Florian "a couple of times over," according to a police report.

On May 15, Magon asked for another \$5,000 and from then on asked for money "constantly," Florian told police.

Florian wanted police to arrest Magon on the spot, police said. Nebus responded that police would investigate the matter immediately and act on any outstanding warrants.

Magon told Florian that he owned a business called the "Blue Thumb Aquariums." However, at the time of the murder, neither Florian nor Magon were employed, Nebus said.

Florian learned Magon had also approached a woman for money in the same fashion. After news of the murder became public, Nebus said several people called Farmington Hills police to complain that they, too, were taken advantage of.

RETURNING HOME with the rifle just after noon, Florian for the first time confronted Magon about the money, asking for repayment,

according to a police report.

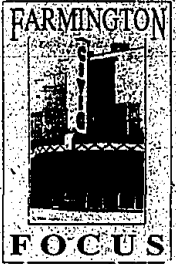
After finishing his act, Florian called Nebus and said he shot his roommate.

"I'm calling to turn myself in," Florian told Nebus, according to the report.

"I shot him three times," the report said. "I have put down the rifle. I wanted to serve justice. I did what I thought was right. I bought a .22 caliber rifle at Meljers 20 minutes ago. I shot him once in the chest and twice in the back of the head. I put the gun on the couch."

Police officers, dispatched at 12:35 p.m., said they found Florian seated in a dining room chair — still talking to Nebus. The door to the apartment door was propped open by a carpet piece.

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FOCUS

SO WHERE are you stashing your trash these days? Hopefully, it's not on the streets and sidewalks of downtown Farmington.

Concern about litter in the downtown business district — especially in the Downtown Center — were raised at a recent meeting of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority.

In past years, members of the state Youth Corps were around to broom the trash. But the Youth Corps is gone now, a victim of state budget cuts.

City officials hope the public will help by putting trash where it belongs. Apparently, that hasn't been happening to hear one DDA member tell it.

"People will just roll up, open their doors and put the (trash) bags out," said Ron Oglesby, a downtown attorney.

THERE'LL BE plenty of red, white and blue during the Founders Festival Parade Saturday, July 13, in downtown Farmington.

In keeping with this Festival's theme — "Hurray for the Red, White and Blue" — young dancers will be sporting those colors as they perform from one end of the parade route to the other.

The unit of at least 100 young dancers will be doing a choreographed traveling dance in celebration of Barbara Hatch's 15th year as a dance teacher at the downtown dance studio which bears her name. Dancers as young as 4 will perform, she said.

The Festival Parade, sponsored by Bolsofer General Hospital, begins at 10 a.m.

TINA SCHAEFERS was the driving force behind the Farmington School District's participation in the 14th annual Michigan State School Bus Rodeo June 25 in East-Joe Rapids.

Schaefers, who drives a bus on the Farmington High and William Grace Elementary School runs, finished 11th of 32 at the state event, sponsored by AAA of Michigan. She advanced to the finals by finishing high in regional competition.

"I can't complain," she said, "I had no practice, really. I didn't have the equipment for the regional, and I couldn't get a baby-sitter for my son before the state meet."

Rodeo drivers took a written examination covering safety laws, conducted a pre-trip vehicle inspection and maneuvered a school bus through a skill course that simulated typical conditions.

Schaefers, a Farmington resident, has been driving a school bus in the district for six years.

"I love driving and I love the kids," she said of her job. "Sure, the kids have their bad days, but most of the time they're great."



Show time is 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, in Vladimir's banquet hall, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills, for the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant. Ten of the area's fairest will be vying for the roses of victory, the crown and the title of Miss Farmington 1991. The contenders are: seated on floor (from left) Jeannine Paikowski and Stephanie Aho; center row (from left) Tracey Lochmayer, Wendy Kutzcycki, Karan Morris and Kathleen Keller; standing (from left) Mario Ponoa, Heather Appel, Jennifer Hardy and Kerry McGlinch. Tickets to the pageant are on sale now for \$8 at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce office, 33411 Grand River, Farmington. The winner will be announced on the front page of the July 11 Farmington Observer.

Festival time

Kids Day, Miss Farmington top week's special events

Related story on Page 2A

It's summertime, and that means festival time in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Activities for the 27th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival kicked off over the weekend with the Civil War Encampment in Heritage Park and will continue throughout the week.

Tuesday is kids day in Shlawassee Park, which will include the annual pet show.

Wednesday night will highlight the crowning of Miss Farmington. Shoppers will be in their element Thursday through Saturday as artists and crafters from all over the country grace the streets of downtown Farmington and local merchants both downtown and uptown host sidewalk sales.

Hungry festival-goers will be able to feast at the Masonic Temple, nibble at food booths throughout the downtown, sample pie and ice cream at the First United Methodist Church or have a sandwich and beer at the annual Elks Club Ox Roast at the club's headquarters on Orchard Lake Road.

MANY OTHER activities will take place throughout the Farming-



ton area.

Saturday, July 13, will down with what has become an annual downtown bed race to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association at 9 a.m., followed by the Festival Parade at 10 a.m., which will run from the Target store site in Farmington Hills along Grand River to the crossroads of downtown Farmington.

A listing of activities is available at area businesses and through the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event.

Also, a special section in today's Observer offers festival details.

For more information, call the chamber office at 474-3440.

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Council hopefuls ready to hit trail

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The time for hitting the campaign trail is drawing near in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills will elect new council members in the Nov. 5 general election. No primaries will be held.

Three seats will be open on the Farmington

City Council, as the terms of veteran councilmen Ralph Yoder and William Harsock and first-term councilwoman JoAnne McShane will expire.

Four seats will be open on the Farmington Hills City Council. The terms of veteran council members Jean Fox and Terry Sever and first-term council members Nancy Bates and Larry Lichtman are expiring.

Nominating petitions are already circulating in

Farmington Hills for those interested in vying for one of the four open seats.

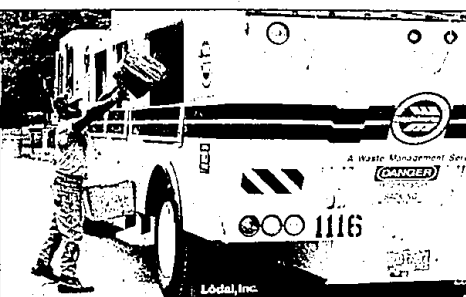
"The packets have been available for some time," city clerk Kathy Dorman said.

City clerk's staff had given out 11 packets, including petitions, as of Tuesday, July 2, including petitions for incumbents Bates and Lichtman.

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Recycling has smooth launching

Gerald Pryor, 28, tosses recyclables into the proper compartment in the state-of-the-art trash truck on a run through the Kendallwood subdivision of Farmington Hills Tuesday.



By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

About 19 seconds at each house is what it takes Gerard Pryor and Kevin Tulley to empty the new recycling bins at each curbside.

"This is fun," said Pryor, 28, who with Tulley drives one of the new Waste Management of Michigan recycling trucks. "We're saving the planet."

Curbside recycling began July 1 in Farmington and Farmington Hills. On the second day, the Observer followed the new compartmentalized recycling truck in the Kendallwood subdivision at Farmington and 12 Mile roads.

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MEMORY LANE — From the July 12, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

Robert Hutton, basketball coach and physical education teacher at Farmington High School, resigned to accept a position as coach and guidance counselor at Romeo High School. He had been at FHS since 1939. His son, Bob Hutton, who had been elected captain of the 1951-52 Falcon basketball team, was to accompany his family to Romeo.

FARMINGTON FOUNDERS

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JOHN DISCHER/staff photographer